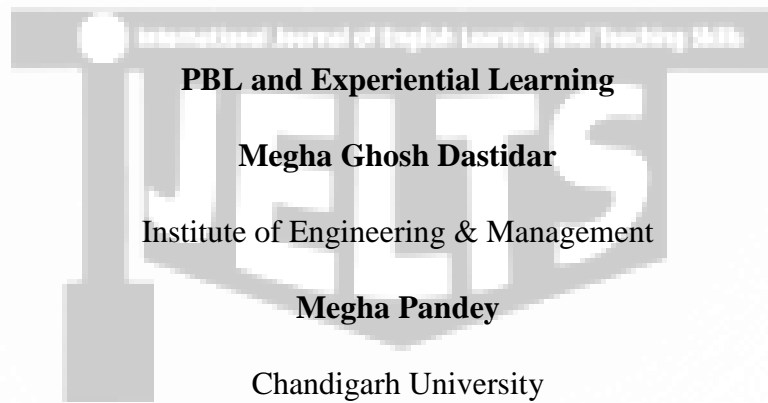


Running head: PBL AND EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING

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PBL and Experiential Learning

PBL, or Project Based Learning is a methodology of attaining information through direct and active exploration of real world problems and solutions. It facilitates deeper knowledge and more solid foundations due to a dynamic classroom approach. It is considered as one of the main components of Experiential Learning. Experiential learning itself is a wholistic process through which students develop knowledge, skills, and concepts from direct experiences outside a traditional academic setting. It may include internships, service learning, undergraduate research, study abroad programs, and other creative and professional work experiences. It may be used to compliment a traditional classroom setting or may be used as a new curriculum entirely.

Understanding Experiential Learning

Experiential learning is simply learning a skill while actually doing it. It is one of the most effective ways of teaching students as well as employees in an institute or organization. It is used in many organizations to provide employees or interns with on-job training. It is perhaps the most effective way of implementing the skillsets in the employees which are essential for an organisation's success. If any organization is seeking help to update its workforce then experiential learning programs are the best remedy. In the case of education implementation, planned, supervised, and well-executed experiential learning workshops and bootcamps can stimulate academic inquiry and scientific mindset by promoting interdisciplinary learning, active engagement, career development, cultural awareness, leadership, and other professional skills.

Experiential learning contains all of the following:

1. Reflection, critical analysis, and synthesis
2. Opportunities for students to take initiative, make decisions, and be accountable for the results
3. Opportunities for students to engage intellectually, creatively, emotionally, socially, or physically
4. A designed learning experience that includes the possibility to learn from consequences, mistakes, and successes

More on Project Based Learning:

As described beautifully by http://www.bie.org/about/what_is_pbl,

"In Project Based Learning (PBL), students go through an extended process of inquiry in response to a complex question, problem, or challenge. While allowing for some degree of student "voice and choice," rigorous projects are carefully planned, managed, and assessed to help students learn key academic content, practice 21st Century Skills (such as collaboration, communication & critical thinking), and create high-quality, authentic products & presentations."

Simply put, it is a teaching methodology in which students learn by actively engaging in real- world and personally meaningful projects, as opposed to concept centric mini projects.

Students work on a project over an extended period of time – from a week up to a semester – that engages them in solving a real-world problem or answering a complex question. They demonstrate their knowledge and skills by creating a public product or presentation for a real audience.

As a result, students develop deep content knowledge as well as critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, and communication skills. Project Based Learning unleashes a contagious, creative energy among students and teachers.

Conclusion:

Through Experiential Learning and in particular through PBL, connection with problems of real world is achieved. Students develop apart from cognitive skills, significant abilities that could change our world to a better one, while they enhance their learning outcomes.

